

VLR-11/5/68
NRHP-6/11/69NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
Virginia	
COUNTY:	
Accomack	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-06-45-0017	6/11/69

1. NAME			
COMMON:			
St. James Church			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
St. James Church			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: E side of Daugherty Road between Back Street and Ocean Highway (Rt. 13).			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Accomack			
STATE		CODE	COUNTY:
Virginia		45	Accomack
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC			
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>			
Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>			
Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
No: <input type="checkbox"/>			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME:			
Trustees of St. George's Parish			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Diocese of Southern Virginia			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Accomack		Virginia	45
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Accomack County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Accomack		Virginia	45
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/3 acre			
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #160-5			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1968			
Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Richmond		Virginia	45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. James Church is a one-story brick structure with a tetrastyle Greek Doric portico on the stuccoed gable end front. From the standpoint of craftsmanship the portico is well executed, but the proportions and detail are quite provincial in feeling. The entablature has no triglyphs but does contain a curiously unbroken row of guttae directly below the frieze. It is interesting that the builder ran the entablature around all three sides of the steep pediment rather than just at the bottom. Over the portico is placed a Gothic bell tower with squatty crockets at each corner and a squatty spire in the center. The sides of the building each contain four tall rectangular windows topped by rubbed brick jack arches.

The most significant feature of the church is the splendid painted architectural decoration on the interior. The painting is genuine 'trompe l'oeil', having rendered shadows and carefully worked-out false perspective. The main feature of this decoration is the reredos which consists of coupled Roman Doric pilasters supporting a plain entablature. These pilasters frame a coffered tunnel vault at the end of which is a paneled door. Painted on the shallow vaulted ceiling of the main part of the church is a false entablature, panels, and foliage to imitate decorative plaster-work. Imitation panels also appear around the walls of the church. Another notable feature on the interior is the interesting staircase at the center of the rear. The stair descends from the gallery in an unsupported flight and divides halfway into two flights.

St. James Church survives in excellent condition. It retains its original pews, and the painted decoration was carefully restored in 1929.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐

16th Century ☐

18th Century ☐

20th Century ☐

15th Century ☐

17th Century ☐

19th Century ☒

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1838

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐

Education ☐

Political ☐

Urban Planning ☐

Prehistoric ☐

Engineering ☐

Religion/Philosophy ☐

Other (Specify) ☐

Historic ☐

Industry ☐

Science ☐

Agriculture ☐

Invention ☐

Sculpture ☐

Art ☒

Landscape ☐

Social/Humanitarian ☐

Commerce ☐

Architecture ☐

History ☐

Communications ☐

Literature ☐

Theater ☐

Conservation ☐

Military ☐

Transportation ☐

Music ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

St. James Church was built in 1838 from materials salvaged from an earlier eighteenth century church nearby. This may account for the early appearance of the side elevations. While the exterior of the church is interesting, the chief significance of the building lies in the fact that it has retained its nineteenth century painted architectural decoration on the interior. All that is known of this decoration is that it was done shortly after the church was built by a traveling artist named Potts. Although other churches in the United States may have had this type of ante bellum decoration, St. James is an extremely fine, if not unique example. It is interesting and indeed unusual that a church of such provincial architectural quality should contain such sophisticated and finely executed decoration. That the artist was able to work his design so successfully into the existing fabric is a testament to his skill.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Turman, Nora Miller, Episcopal Churches, Accomack County, Virginia, from the year 1652, Eastern Shore Publishing Company, Inc., 1954.

_____, St. James Church, Accomack, Virginia, 1838-1963, prepared for 125th Anniversary.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	37°	43'	02"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	75°	40'	21"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE:
April 23, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name Edw. P. Alexander per John

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date May 20, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Arnet Allen Chantley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date JUN 11 1969

ATTEST:

William J. Gentry
Keeper of The National Register

Date JUN 11 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

